

and respects senior citizens, the environment, education of our children, key issues that move this country toward the 21st century, not misdirected ideas and policies that undermine what this country should stand for.

The Republicans again do not get it. Democrats are prepared to engage in a bipartisan discussion of keeping this Government going, balancing the budget. But do not scare the American people with false exaggeration regarding the deficit. We know the deficit has come down. We also know the American people know the difference between credit and the need to pay as you go which is their Government's responsibility.

Madam Speaker, I just ask, let us come to the table of reconciliation, pass a clean continuing resolution, keep the Government open, and make sure that the American people in this battle win, and not continue to foster confusion upon our constituents.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House of May 12, 1995, morning hour debate may not continue beyond 9:50 a.m. Accordingly, pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the House will stand in recess until 10 a.m.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 50 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 10 a.m.

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AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. MYRICK) at 10 a.m.

PRAYER

Rev. Dr. David Burr, pastor emeritus, First Presbyterian Church, Winston-Salem, NC, offered the following prayer:

O merciful God, in this season of thanksgiving, we humble ourselves before You and give thanks. Thanksgiving for this blessed land; thanksgiving for this special place and these chosen leaders; thanksgiving for the freedom to debate and represent the people; thanksgiving for our homes and families; thanksgiving for Your eternal presence.

As we give thanks O God, we acknowledge that we are prone to all the weaknesses of human character.

We are selfish, and often think our ways are always the best ways.

Therefore, we ask for wisdom and guidance; we ask for courage that we may be faithful; we ask for patience that we may be fair; we ask for health that we may complete the task before us.

And, O gracious God, we pray for peace, peace in the world, peace in our Nation, and peace in our hearts.

With thanksgiving. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Ohio [Ms. PRYCE] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance?

Ms. PRYCE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate insists upon its amendment to the bill (H.R. 2491), "An Act to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 105 of the concurrent resolution in the budget for fiscal year 1996," disagreed to by the House, agrees to the conference asked by the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appointed the following Members to be the conferees on the part of the Senate, with instructions:

From the Committee on the Budget for the consideration of all titles: Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. EXON.

From the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry for the consideration of title I: Mr. LUGAR, Mr. DOLE, Mr. HELMS (for consideration of section 1113 and subtitle D), Mr. COCHRAN (except for consideration of sections 1106, 1108, 1113, and subtitle D), Mr. CRAIG (for consideration of sections 1106 and 1108), Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. PRYOR.

From the Committee on Armed Services for the consideration of title II: Mr. THURMOND, Mr. MCCAIN, and Mr. BINGAMAN.

From the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs for the consideration of title III: Mr. D'AMATO, Mr. GRAMM, and Mr. SARBANES.

From the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation for the consideration of title IV: Mr. PRESSLER, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. HOLLINGS, and Mr. INOUE.

From the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for the consideration of title V: Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mr. HATFIELD, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. JOHNSTON, Mr. BUMPERS, and Mr. FORD.

From the Committee on Environment and Public Works for the consideration of title VI: Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. WARNER, Mr. SMITH, Mr. BAUCUS, and Mr. REID.

From the Committee on Finance for the consideration of title VII and title XII: Mr. ROTH, Mr. DOLE, and Mr. MOYNIHAN.

From the Committee on Governmental Affairs for the consideration of title VIII (and for consideration of the title of the House bill relating solely to abolishing the Department of Commerce): Mr. STEVENS, Mr. COHEN, Mr. THOMPSON, Mr. GLENN, and Mr. PRYOR.

From the Committee on the Judiciary for the consideration of title IX: Mr. HATCH, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. BIDEN.

From the Committee on Labor and Human Resources for the consideration of title X: Mrs. KASSEBAUM, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. COATS, Mr. FRIST, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. PELL, and Mr. SIMON (for ERISA and other matters).

From the Committee on Veteran Affairs for the consideration of title XI: Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. MURKOWSKI, and Mr. ROCKEFELLER.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 103-322, the Chair, on behalf of the Democratic leader, announces the appointment of Gilbert L. Gallegos, of New Mexico, to the National Commission to Support Law Enforcement.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will recognize fifteen 1-minutes on each side.

WELCOME TO DR. DAVID BURR

(Mr. BURR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURR. Madam Speaker, as is tradition in the House, I have the honor this morning of introducing our guest Chaplain. Dr. David Burr attended Princeton Theological Seminary after serving in World War II as a frogman in our Navy.

He has served Presbyterian churches in Charlottesville, VA; Norfolk, VA, and retired in a church in Winston-Salem, NC, during his 43 years in the ministry.

David Burr served as the chairman of the Southern Presbyterian Church and on the board of trustees at Davidson University.

Today is indeed a special one for me, because our guest Chaplain watched me take my first step, was there on my first day of school, and served as my roll model in life. David Burr is indeed my father, but he is also my best friend. I am honored today, Dad, to welcome you to the U.S. House of Representatives.

THE PRESIDENT SHOULD STAND FAST

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I spoke earlier about the fact that I was

very pleased that President Clinton last night vetoed the continuing resolution because it avoided a major increase in Medicare premiums for the Nation's elderly.

However, this is not only an issue with regard to Medicare and health care concerns for the elderly. It is also important that the President stand fast because the budget that we will probably be considering within the next couple of days also makes major cuts in education, particularly with regard to student loans for young people. It is also important because of the appropriations bills and the less money that the Republican leadership intends to spend on the environment.

In my district, the environment is the same as the economy. We need a quality environment in order to improve our lives and in order to make it possible for future generations to enjoy a quality environment.

The fact of the matter is, by vetoing the legislation last night, the President is sending the message that he wants to protect seniors and their health care, he wants to protect education programs, and understands the importance of education, and also understands the importance of a quality environment.

CONGRESS' SPENDING SPREE A BURDEN TO OUR CHILDREN

(Ms. DUNN of Washington asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DUNN of Washington. Madam Speaker, the introduction by the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. BURR] of his father a moment ago was a great change from the rhetoric we have heard during the last few years.

Madam Speaker, I want to take a moment to address my colleagues from my perspective as a mother. First, I know what it is like to raise two little boys into grown men and I know what it is like to dream about their futures.

Unfortunately, the burden this Congress has put on these children for the last few decades has been a spending spree that has undermined their futures. Past Congresses have burdened each child born this year with a bill of \$187,000, just to pay interest through their lifetime on the national debt. That is why we must move aggressively toward a balanced budget.

As a mother I am concerned that we do the right things to preserve and protect Medicare for my sons, not to mention my parents. That is why we must take the steps necessary to save Medicare from going into certain bankruptcy.

Madam Speaker, as the front page of the Washington Post says today, the real fight is over balancing the budget. I am committed to it, we are committed to it. It is the right thing to do.

ANGST IN OUR INSTITUTION

(Mr. PETERSON of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PETERSON of Florida. Madam Speaker, these are trying times in the House of Representatives and in the Senate and in the Nation; very partisan times.

Today I, along with my colleague from Florida, Mr. JOHNSTON, were going to enter a privileged resolution dealing with the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct of this House, which is the police station of ethics for this institution.

Madam Speaker, for over 14 months they have had complaints involving the Speaker of this House and have not reported back to their employer, the House of Representatives. However, because of the angst that exists within this institution today, we are not going to pursue the privileged resolution.

We will encourage the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct to continue their work. We would like very much for them to report to us, but we will withhold until a more quiet time in this institution.

PRESIDENT IS AGAINST BALANCING THE BUDGET

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, yesterday the President decided he had two reasons why he vetoed the debt limit bill. Let us look at what he said. He said the bill tied the hands of the Treasury Secretary to avoid a default.

Madam Speaker, do we know what that means? We were trying to stop the Secretary from stealing from the Social Security trust fund and now, because the President did not sign that, he can do that.

Second, he stated the bill obligates the President and the Congress to pass a plan which cuts Medicare and education and increases taxes. Well, let me just say to my colleagues, we are trying to save Medicare, increase Medicare spending, reform welfare, and reduce America's tax burden and shrink the size and scope of the Federal Government.

It is obvious what the President really is against is balancing the budget. He wants to spend more money, create more bureaucracies and pile more debt on our kids. It is unfortunate that shutting down the Government is the only way to stop him.

OUR SHIP OF GOVERNMENT IS SINKING

(Mr. GUTIERREZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Madam Speaker, we all know the ship of Government is stuck. It has hit a reef and it cannot move.

But do not worry—NEWT GINGRICH and the Republicans have a solution—a simple way to get our ship of Government moving again.

Just throw some people overboard.

Start with the elderly.

Toss some students.

Then abandon America's veterans.

The Republican plan? Cut some Medicare payments, threaten student loans, and lower VA benefits, and we'll get this ship moving again.

Well, thankfully for the millions of Americans who work hard every day and expect a fair deal from their Government, our President has said no.

He believes the ship of Government moves much better when we bring everyone along—the elderly, our children, our veterans.

The Democratic Party believes that we are all better, and stronger—more American—when we solve our problems together, move forward as one people, and leave no one behind.

This Republican posturing about the continuing resolution is no more than a ransom note. Throw some people over—or we'll sink the ship.

Mr. President—stand firm. Do not let the ship sail by abandoning our people.

SOLUTION NEEDED FOR IMPASSE

(Mr. SCHIFF asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, we need a solution to this impasse. I do not believe that a solution is unrestricted borrowing and spending. That is what we have been doing for the last 25 years. However, I believe part of the solution is taking off the table at this time specifics towards reaching a balanced budget.

I suggest, and I encourage, the Congress of the United States to pass a continuing resolution today that will keep the Government going with only one condition, and that is that the President and the Congress agree on reaching a balanced budget as a common goal. That will mean agreeing to reach a goal through the same method in 7 years using Congressional Budget Office figures.

The President of the United States has previously agreed with both of those conditions. He suggested during his campaign that the budget could be balanced in 5 years. Further, he stood in this Chamber and lectured the Congress on the fact that he thought the Congressional Budget Office had the best and most accurate figures in projecting the government budget. Therefore, we should say that the one condition is a common goal of balancing the budget.